Assistance to State Poultry Farms

2064. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new scheme called 'Assistance to State Poultry Farms' is being implemented by the Central Government in the current Plan;

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme and the achievements made by the scheme since its implementation particularly in terms of production of eggs and broiler chicken, State-wise;

(c) whether any assistance is being provided to the State of Tamil Nadu for further development of poultry industry particularly in the districts of Namakkal and Salem where there is large concentration of poultry industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, "Assistance to State Poultry Farms" is being implemented in all the States/Union Territories of the country during the current Plan.

(b) The objectives of the scheme is to strengthen the existing State Government farms, so that they can maintain the parent stock of the low-input technology birds for onward distribution of commercial chicks. The target group is primarily landless, marginal farmers, women in groups and other socially backward sectors of the society, for practicing rural backyard poultry rearing which is a source of nutritional supplementation and subsidiary income. In the existing premises of the State farms poultry, guinea fowl, quail, turkey can also be taken up as a new activity. The pattern of assistance is 100% in the case of North Eastern States including Sikkim whereas it is 80:20 in respect of other States between Centre and State respectively at the rate of maximum Rs. 85.00 lakhs for each farm.

Further, the low input technology stocks being maintained are mostly dual purpose birds *i.e.* they may be used for both meat and egg purpose.

The achievements made by the scheme in terms of production egg and chicks is being collected from the State Governments and will be placed on the table of the Rajya Sabha as soon as the same is received.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The State of Tamil Nadu has been assisted under the scheme, "Assistance to State Poultry Farms". The scheme is aimed for rural backyard poultry development and 2 farms at Katupakkam, Kanchipuram districts and Hosur, Krishnagiri district have been assisted. The farms have been assisted during 2004-05 for Rs. 99.756 lakhs in total for both the farms.

Survey to assess crop production

2065. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have done any survey to assess as to which crops are produced in excess and which ones are produced less than the domestic demand;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government would set up regional cells to inform the farmers about the crops that would be in demand in the coming years so that they can go in for such crops?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Opening of Agricultural Research Institute in Rajasthan

†2066. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of agro-climatic zones which exist in Rajasthan;

(b) whether it is a fact that seed, fertilizer and agricultural processes of one zone cannot be duplicated in another zone;

(c) whether there is any plan to open an agricultural research institute, keeping in view the conditions of Rajasthan; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) As per Planning Commission of India, there are following four agro-climatic zones:-

1. Western Dry Region.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.